

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Representative Leonard L. Bembry

Florida House of Representatives, District 10



From the desk of State Representative Leonard Bembry

Dear Friends:

Thank you for allowing me to represent you in the Florida House of Representatives.

I am humbled by the responsibility you have given me to serve as your representative in our state capital. What happens in the Florida Legislature has serious implications to our daily lives and those of our children and grandchildren. I take this responsibility very seriously as your State Representative.

The 2009 Legislative Session was – in a word – challenging. The fragile nature of our economy and the shortfalls in our state revenue have made providing for the needs of our communities difficult. And, frankly, the Legislature missed some opportunities to reprioritize our spending and run a more responsible, accessible and accountable state government.

While the session provided its share of challenges, it also provided some opportunities. For instance, I was proud to sponsor successful legislation that:

- Protects our agricultural community from the threat of plant pests and disease.
- Provides our small and fiscally constrained counties with significant tax relief .
- Revises confidentiality laws for clinical psychologists to better protect the public interest.

Additionally, I am pleased that the Legislature restored \$21 million in library funding that is critical to our small counties, as well with the further development of a \$20 million ethanol research project and facility in our district that is expected to create 250 jobs.

I introduced a number of key amendments that improved other bills during the legislative process. I also weighed in on many important issues through questions and debate on the floor of the House of Representatives.

It is very important to me that my fellow legislators have the opportunity to know and understand our issues and values in District 10 so they can better understand our rural attitudes. I made it clear that I supported few, if any, new fees or taxes for my constituency.

I want to hear your concerns and share information and ideas. Please call or stop by our legislative offices in Madison, Chiefland or Tallahassee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Leonard L. Bembry'.

Representative Bembry's Initiatives:

- ✓ Protect the interests of small and rural counties, provide them tax relief and protect them from unfunded state mandates
- ✓ Publish state spending and budget information on the internet for all to see
- ✓ Create jobs by maintaining \$20 million in funding for ethanol research here in our district
- ✓ Stop a premature rule making process that would force residents to buy new and more expensive septic tanks
- ✓ Streamline the permitting process so we can compete with Georgia to provide jobs
- ✓ Legislature restored \$21 million in funding for our libraries throughout our district
- ✓ To maintain proper funding for our local law enforcement, fire rescue and Department of Corrections employees
- ✓ Protect state workers from pay cuts in the budget process
- ✓ Allow our school systems the flexibility they need to make it through these tough economic times
- ✓ Protect our farming and agricultural interests from unnecessary permitting and development intrusion
- ✓ Provided our small counties with significant tax relief in the implementation of Amendment #4
- ✓ Continue to protect our small county government structure

For a detailed summary of the 2009 Legislative Session and to read the full state budget log on to: www.myfloridahouse.gov



Rep. Bembry sponsored legislation signed into law that provides funding to battle plant pests.



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